

## Attorney Survey Questions for Trial Court Judges

[on the following questions, judges are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1=inadequate performance and 5= outstanding performance]

1. The judge makes sound rulings.
2. The judge properly applies the rules of civil procedure.
3. The judge properly applies the rules of criminal procedure.
4. The judge properly applies the rules of evidence.
5. The judge's sentencing fits the offenses.
6. The judge makes appropriate findings of facts.
7. The judge appropriately applies the laws to the facts.
8. The judge follows legal precedent.
9. The judge only considers evidence in the record.
10. The judge's written decisions are clear and logical.
11. The judge's written opinions offer meaningful legal analysis.
12. The judge is fair and impartial.
13. The judge avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.
14. The judge avoids improper ex parte communications.
15. The judge's behavior demonstrates equal treatment of all persons or classes of persons.
16. The judge appears to consider both sides of an argument before rendering a decision.
17. The judge holds attorneys accountable for inappropriate conduct.
18. The judge's oral communication while in court is clear and logical.
19. The judge promotes public trust and confidence in the courts through his or her conduct on the bench.
20. The judge respects the time of the participants and understands the personal and financial costs they may be incurring to participate in court proceedings.
21. The judge is prepared for argument and hearings.
22. The judge treats all attorneys with equal courtesy and respect
23. The judge rules in a timely manner.
24. The judge realistically manages his or her calendar.
25. The judge convenes court without undue delay.
26. The judge provides the parties due process; namely, advance notice of issues to be heard an adequate opportunity to prepare and a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
27. The judge acts to ensure that linguistic/cultural differences or disabilities do not unfairly limit access to the justice system.

### 28. Adjective Selection

[respondents are asked to mark at least 3 words that best describe the judge]

Attentive	Rude	Considerate
Cantankerous	Calm	Defensive
Patient	Confident	Dismissive
Consistent	Arrogant	Polite
Indecisive	Receptive	Disrespectful

Knowledgeable  
Flippant

Intelligent

Impatient

[Yes/No and open-ended questions]

29. Would you recommend that this judge be retained? Why/why not?

30. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about this judge, please add your comments below.

[demographic information requested of respondents]

31. How many trials or hearings have you had with this judge over the past year?

32. How long have you been licensed to practice law?

32. Areas of primary practice: collections, domestic, criminal, civil, other